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# The Mission Nurseries

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Mission, Texas

## Bulletin No. 4

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This price list is our salesman. We are not getting out a costly catalog, and making our customers pay for it, but we do promise to deliver to you as good trees as can be bought anywhere. We are permanently in the business, and expect to continue, by dealing squarely by all, and will make my guarantees good. We make a specialty of citrus fruit, believing that it is soon to be the leading industry of this, our Magic Valley. Knowing our possibilities and our advantages over every other citrus country, and our freedom from all dangerous diseases, and the excellent quality and flavor of our fruit.

### ABOUT OURSELVES.

We own an orchard here in Mission. We have almost every variety of fruit in bearing that we offer for sale. We have many kinds of citrus: Oranges, Tangerines, Manderins, Grapefruit, Lemons and Limes. We have several varieties of peaches and plums, and some of the newer sub-tropical fruits, including the Avocado (called by our Mexican neighbors Aguacate.) We know what fruits will pay. It is no hearsay with us. We have made many mistakes. We can tell you how to avoid them. We make every effort to have every tree and plant true to name but the most particular will sometimes make mistakes, and for this reason it is mutually agreed between ourselves and our customers that we are to replace anything that proves untrue free of charge, and that we will be held responsible no further.

We will be pleased to receive your order for trees and will do our best to please you.

As we said in the beginning—we are not getting out a big catalog and charging you with the cost but we will sell you as good trees as anybody.

Eat fruit, lock the medicine chest and throw away the key. A dime's worth of fruit is worth a whole box of pills.

It is impossible to estimate the profits of an orchard for home use, for aside from the money value it is a great pleasure to have even a few trees in your back yard or on a city lot. If you don't believe a man prizes them, offer to cut one down. You would have a row with the man of the house, the good lady, and on down to the smallest tot. A ten-acre grove of citrus, properly treated, will pay better than 100 acres of cotton, and on an average more than 40 acres of truck. Why, I know a 3-acre grapefruit grove that at 3 years of age brought more than \$1400 in 1915.

If you live in town and have only a small lot, plant a few oranges and grapefruit and a lemon or two, and at least one avocado. The latter is a large, broad-leaved evergreen, native to Mexico, and the fruit is the most valuable grown. Set a few plants of the catley guava. The finest trees I have on my place are in my yard, including two avocado trees and some guavas and kumquats which I am always proud to show. You are invited at any time.

### POURS COLD WATER

No matter where you live, there is always some fellow ready to pour cold water on your plans, to say "this is no fruit country." Up in Washington state, the finest apple country in the world, they are going around saying "This is no apple country." Up in New York state where pears grow to perfection, someone is always saying "This is no pear country." After you get a grove planted and fruiting with the finest fruit and such trees as were never seen anywhere else of the same age, some fellow will come along and after he has eaten as much as he can will say: "This is no fruit country;" back yonder in—I saw bigger trees and bigger orchards than any you have here all loaded with fruit. But when questioned they will acknowledge that the orchards were much older and also that they used from fifty to one hundred dollars in fertilizer per year on each acre, or in another, irrigation costs several times as much as here and still they fertilize.

It may seem to you that this price list is mighty badly mixed up, and it is the truth. I wrote it myself. I am no journalist, don't know much grammar, was educated in the school of hard knocks. I could have employed some newspaper man to write me a price-list, but I preferred to write it myself and tell what I have learned in my own words. I have two nursery catalogues before me from different sections, they both have nearly the same reading and the same pictures; this shows that they were both written by the same

man. Maybe the man that wrote them could not tell an orange tree from a dewberry vine, or an avocado from a mesquite.

A good many years ago I was peddling peaches from a small spring wagon on the streets of the town near where I lived. A man came along on a load of hay with four mules to his wagon, he was away up in the air and looked down on me and asked if I didn't have mighty little to do. I probably sold my load that day for as much as he got for his big load of hay, and I had loads of fruit for many days to come.

This particular section is rapidly developing into the profitable commercial production of citrus fruits. Actual experience has proven that oranges and grapefruit may be grown in this valley safely, satisfactorily and at a large profit. The oranges and the grapefruit grown on our rich Valley lands are equal, if not superior to those grown in any other section. Our warm and fertile soil and constant supply of irrigation water during the growing and fruiting season makes an abundant crop absolutely certain.

At the proper season we can show you samples of the fruit we grow. We have been seven years at Mission; ten years in the Valley, and 25 years in South Texas, and more than forty years in the fruit and nursery business, with some lapses of a year or two at a time. I have always been (you might say) a crank about trying new fruits and making experiments with same. And the failures I make, you may avoid.

### WHEN TO PLANT.

From about November 5 to the middle of March will be a good time to plant. Trim off all broken roots. When you set the tree, if it is a straight, one-year-tree, cut it down to 18 inches and not more than two feet. If a large branched tree cut the branches one-half or more back to the tree.

Citrus are set in various distances. Twenty feet is the most common, and I think is about right. But I am planting some 20 by 25 feet, and in the 25 feet way. Plant some small growing trees that will be a protection from winds and cold. I recommend pomgranates above anything else. It never makes a large tree, but for the first two or three years outgrows anything else you can plant, and its fruit is exceedingly good. Kumquats, limes and several others are good.

### CITRUS

Every home in the Rio Grande Valley, whether large or small, should be surrounded by a few orange trees. A commercial planting of one, two, five or ten acres, will add more to the pleasure of farming and will assist you more in building a better home and larger bank account and more than double the value of your place.

We have emerged from the experimental stage and the growing of citrus fruits offers our farmers greater returns from their investment than any of the agricultural crops. Then danger in destructive drops in the temperature is less than in the best citrus belts of California.

The orange is the best seller in the world's fruit market, there are many reasons for this. First, it is the acme of perfection to the human taste. Second, its health-giving quality is not equalled by any other fruit. Third, it is the one fruit that may be kept entirely sanitary.

**Grapefruit.** Although the planting of grapefruit has been heavy for several years, the demand for this product has increased in a larger ratio and of course there has been no reduction in the market price, from present indications, the next few years will be far better than the past. Grapefruit will produce more boxes of fruit to a given number of trees than any other citrus fruit, and taking all points into consideration, they can be grown and marketed at a lower cost than any other citrus fruit. Therefore the margin of profit is large. To the planter the grapefruit especially commends itself. The trees are strong and sturdy, come into bearing early and produce heavy crops. It seems that our section will have a monopoly on grapefruit production, for California fruit and from other sections also, does not develop the quality of our Valley product.

# BULLETIN No. 4

## VARIETIES OF GRAPEFRUIT

**Duncan.** Large size, shapely and uniform; peel, tough and smooth; color, light yellow; flesh, light; juice sacks, large and closely packed; quality, best; bitterness marked and well blended with sweetness and acidity. Ripens fall or early winter, hanging on trees in prime condition until spring or early summer. It has been more largely planted in Texas and along the Gulf Coast than other varieties, where it is considered much more hardy. A good and safe variety to plant anywhere.

**Florida Common, or Standard.** The buds for the variety we list as Common Florida or Standard were taken from some of the best trees of old Florida seedling grapefruit, which has done more to create the great demand for this fruit than all other varieties, having just the right amount of the bitter or true grapefruit flavor. Fruit large; light lemon color; heavy, of the best quality. The tree is a strong, upright, rank grower, very prolific, producing fruit in immense clusters. Average to the box 46 to 54.

**Marsh Seedless.** The most universally popular of all grapefruit, and deservedly so. It embraces all the good points from the grower's viewpoint, and being nominally seedless, of good quality, medium to large size, makes it a universal favorite on the market. As an all-round, money-making, satisfactory variety, we recommend it in preference to all others. Size, medium to large, a little flattened. Skin, thin and smooth. Pulp firm, juicy, heavy and of excellent quality; nearly seedless.

**Triumph.** Fruit medium to small; clear thin skin; fine flavor, with less "rage" than in most grapefruit very heavy, juicy and well flavored. A popular variety, as the market seems to demand a medium to small grapefruit of good quality. Packs 74 to 96.

I would like to have you visit my nurseries to see the quality of stock produced and have you make selections in person; but I do guarantee that all orders received will be given prompt, careful attention.

If interested in trees lifted with ball of earth attached to roots ask for special "balled" tree prices.

## BEST COMMERCIAL ORANGES

**Pineapple.** This is an ideal orange, in shape, color size; is unquestionably the finest flavored variety grown. Medium to large size, uniform, rich orange yellow, almost round, slightly elongated. One of the five best commercial varieties. Ripens in early December.

**Parson Brown.** Extremely early, standard round variety. The best orange in the market at this time of ripening. Very early—September and October. Medium size, fine quality, bears young and produces good crops. One of the five best.

**Tangerine.** The best of the kid glove type. Small to medium size, juicy, sweet and of good quality. The skin removes readily with the hands and segments of pulp separate freely. Round, with decidedly flattened ends. A splendid orange, ripens in early December.

**Washington Navel.** The orange which has made California famous as a citrus fruit-growing state. Very large, oval-oblong, with smooth golden yellow skin, slightly pointed. Entirely seedless, of excellent quality.

**Valencia Late.** One of the most valuable varieties. Very late, large size, oval-oblong, thin, tough rind, rich, juicy, semi-acid. Fine quality, very heavy bearer. Brings top prices in the market. One of the five best for South Texas and Northern Mexico.

## Prices for Standard Varieties Orange Trees Budded on Sour Orange.

2 yr., 3-4 to 1 inch.... .90c each, \$80 per hundred  
2 yr., 5-8 to 3-4 inch.... .80c each, \$70 per hundred

## LEMONS

**Eureka.** The leading commercial lemon; fruit uniform and of medium size; rind of fine texture and color rich in juice; quality the highest; few seeds; bears heavy and continuously; tree almost thornless, an important consideration in picking and pruning. Bears heavy during the summer when lemons are in greatest demand. Shipping qualities the best.

**Villa Franca.** Fruit of good form and size; peel smooth and a bright yellow in color; juice abundant with little pulp; tree a strong, upright grower and almost thornless; a good grower and bearer setting its fruit well inside the tree.

I have not room to go into ornamentals, but you are cordially invited to come and look them over and if I have not what you want I will either get it for you or tell you the best place to get it.

## THE AVOCADO.

Discovered a few years ago. One morning after a severe freeze of 12 degrees and 14 degrees above zero they found a few Mexican Avocado trees unharmed. This was the start of which is to become a great industry. One of these trees became noted on account of being insured for thirty thousand dollars, and producing an income in one year of \$3,207.00.

Avocado, heretofore considered a tropical fruit, now appeared in a new light to those Californians. Here these trees are freeze-proof. Let us look up their value. The chemist said one pound of the flesh of this fruit is equal in food value to one pound of eggs or milk or one-half pound of butter, or two pounds of lean beef. You see they are a food as well as a fruit, and grow to perfection here. I am planting an acre orchard of them, and expect great things from them.

Price Spring Delivery, \$3.00 per Tree.

## POMEGRANATE

Thrives throughout the cotton belt; an old historical fruit, yet one of the South's neglected resources. It has a far greater commercial value than is generally supposed. It grows in form of a large shrub or small tree, very graceful in form and foliage, and produces a profusion of strikingly brilliant and lovely scarlet flowers, desirable as a yard tree, and especially well suited to use in solid or mixed borders. Bears young, is prolific, and the fruit possesses a fresh crispness, delicacy and sprightliness of flavor much esteemed by all who know it.

## Prices of Pomegranates

	Each
C—1 to 2 feet, small size.....	25c to 50c
E—2 to 3 feet, medium size .....	40c
F—3 to 4 feet, standard size .....	50c

## FIGS

A few years ago there were planted here at Mission quite an acreage of figs. But because of a failure to get a preserving plant most of the trees were dug up to make room for cabbage or something else. But I retained a small block and find them very profitable.

Price 25 Cents Each.

## GUAVAS

The Guava is much sought for jelly making and preserving, and is greatly relished, eaten out of the hand when fully ripe. The Strawberry Guava may be used as an ornamental shrub to advantage, either as a single specimen plant, in groups, and as a hedge or large border.

**Strawberry Guava.** (Psidium Cattleianum.) A fine glossy-leaved shrub or small tree, which produces in abundance a luscious fruit about the size of a large strawberry; round and deep reddish-brown color. The fruit is highly prized for table use when fresh, and for jams and jellies has few equals. Aside from its economic value, the shrub is sufficiently ornamental to merit a place in any garden. Balled, 50c and \$1.00.

## SAPOTA

**The White Sapota,** or Casimiroa Edulis, grows to a height of 15 to 20 feet. The tree is of spreading habit, with attractive foliage. Should be planted by all lovers of tropical fruits. 60 cents each.

## FEIJOA

Prices of Feijoas \$1.00.

**Feijoa Sellowiana.** "Pineapple Guava." No fruit introduced in California, with the single exception of the Avocado, has met with such popular reception as the Feijoa (Fay-zho-a). The delicious flavor of the pulp is rivaled by its strong and agreeable aroma, both taste and color reminding one of the pineapple and banana combined. So lasting is this pleasing fragrance that receptacles having once held the ripened fruit will often retain a slight odor for weeks.

It grows to a height of about 8 feet. If pruned, it forms an attractive, compact shrub; having glossy green leaves, the under surface thickly covered with a whitish, velvety growth. The flowers are large and showy, silvery white in color with crimson stamens and golden yellow anthers. It is hardy and of easy culture.

Peaches 25c each; \$20.00 per 100.

Plums 30c each; \$25.00 per 100.

Varieties adapted here and grafted on plum root which makes them resistant to rot and too much wet.

This is a poor literary effort. But I think there are some good things good about it. Read it and afterwards keep it for future reference and information.